

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 OIC-02 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

EA-09 FRB-01 INR-07 NEA-10 NSAE-00 OPIC-06 SP-02

TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03

INT-05 PRS-01 PA-02 ITC-01 STR-04 H-02 /120 W

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O R 061612Z APR 76

FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC IMMEDIATE 1414

INFO ALL OECD CAPITALS 0141

USDEL MTN GENEVA

UNCLAS OECD PARIS 10056

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, OECD

SUBJECT: OECD CONSULTATIONS ON US SPECIALTY STEEL
MEASURES

FOLLOWING IS AGREED TEXT OF CHAIRMAN'S SUMMING UP OF
RESULTS OF APRIL 5-6 OECD CONSULTATIONS ON US SPECIALTY
STEEL MEASURES. TEXT WILL BE RELEASED TO PRESS.

BEGIN TEXT

1. AT THE REQUEST OF THE UNITED STATES, OECD MEM-
BERS CONSULTED ON 5TH-6TH APRIL WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF
THE MINISTERIAL DECLARATION OF 30TH MAY, 1974, ON THE
SITUATION OF THE SPECIALTY STEEL INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED
STATES AND ON THE RECENT DECISION OF THE UNITED STATES
PRESIDENT TO GRANT IPORT RELIEF TO THAT INDUSTRY.
AS A RESULT, THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES:

2. -- EXPRESSED THEIR SATISFACTION THAT THE UNITED
STATES HAD RECOURSE TO THE CONSULTATION PROCEDURE OF THE
OECD, ALTHOUGH THE DECISION PROCESS IN THE UNITED STATES
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IS AT AN ADVANCED STAGE;

3. -- NOTED THE EXPLANATIONS GIVEN BY THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION AS TO THE DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED BY THE SPECIALTY STEEL INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED STATES, INCLUDING THE REDUCED OPERATING AND EMPLOYMENT LEVELS IN THE INDUSTRY, THE INCREASE IN IMPORT PENETRATION DESPITE DEPRESSED MARKET CONDITIONS, AND THE LOW DOMESTIC PRODUCTION LEVELS IN RELATION TO PREVIOUS PEAKS;

4. -- NOTED THE SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT THE JUSTIFICATION FOR THE ENVISAGED IMPORT MEASURES EXPRESSED BY THE OTHER DELEGATIONS WHICH STRESSED THAT THE DIFFICULTIES OF THE UNITED STATES SPECIALTY STEEL INDUSTRY WERE MAINLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO A FALLING OFF IN INTERNAL DEMAND AND THAT IN THEIR COUNTRIES THIS INDUSTRY WAS EXPERIENCING SIMILAR DIFFICULTIES; MOREOVER SUCH MEASURES WOULD BE INTRODUCED WHEN THE STEEL MARKET WAS SHOWING SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT AND DEMAND FOR UNITED STATES MANUFACTURED SPECIALTY STEEL PRODUCTS WAS RECOVERING;

5. -- NOTED THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO LIMIT THE APPLICATION OF THE ENVISAGED RESTRICTIONS OF IMPORTS TO A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS AND THAT THE MEASURES WILL BE REVIEWED AND, DEPENDING ON THE PROGRESS OF THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY, HOPEFULLY TERMINATED AT AN EARLIER DATE;

6. -- NOTED THE EXPLANATION OF THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION THAT THIS CASE BECAUSE OF ITS EXCEPTIONAL AND UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS A PRECEDENT OR AS INDICATING A CHANGE IN THE LIBERAL TRADE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT;

7. -- NOTED THE CONCERN EXPRESSED BY OTHER DELEGATIONS THAT THE ENVISAGED TRADE RESTRICTIONS COULD REPRESENT A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT AND TRIGGER OFF CHAIN REACTIONS AND THEREFORE RUN COUNTER TO THE OBJECTIVES OF THE MINISTERIAL DECLARATION OF 30TH MAY, 1974;

8. -- AGREED TO PURSUE AS NECESSARY THE CONSULTATION
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AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON THE PRESENT CASE IN THE
OECD;

9. -- REAFFIRMED THEIR ADHERENCE TO THE MINISTERIAL
DECLARATION OF 30TH MAY, 1974 AND THE NEED FOR CONTINU-
ING INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION. END TEXT
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, MEETING REPORTS, IMPORT CONTROLS, STEELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976OECDP10056
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760129-0610
From: OECD PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760493/aaaadbhl.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUN 2004 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <26 JAN 2005 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OECD CONSULTATIONS ON US SPECIALTY STEEL MEASURES
TAGS: ETRD, OECD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006